

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 32 No. 2

February 15, 1964

Whole No. 377



## DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 53

### RED, WHITE AND BLUE

A colored covered weekly featuring stories of the Civil War. Published by Street & Smith November 7, 1896 to December 18, 1897, 59 issues. Size 7x10½ with 32 pages.



## Colonel Prentiss Ingraham

By J. Edward Leithead

(continued from last issue)

"Whenever I get a chance to get at it," Don Russell wrote me later, "I am now back on my chapter on Buffalo Bill as author, which involves of course the dime novels signed by him. I am more and more convinced that he did more writing than he has been credited with, and it was curious how the picture began to fall into place this time as I ran down what he was doing at the time. Some of his dime novels seem to be rewrites of his plays. I am now inclined to think that he wrote or had much to do with the writing of all those originally published before 1879. That year Prentiss Ingraham enters the picture by writing a play for him; also the autobiography appeared, but I am not inclined to credit Prentiss with more than an assist on that." (Don Russell here refers to the original autobiography, "The Life of the Honorable William F. Cody, Known as Buffalo Bill, the Famous Hunter, Scout and Guide," by William F. Cody. Hartford, Conn: F. E. Bliss, 1879). "It is queer how the dime novels before that year came out after he had spent summers at home, and during intervals when Major John Burke was not around. Have you read many of them? Dr. Johannsen thinks he can see differences in the style between those Ingraham wrote for Bill and others which he thinks Bill wrote himself."

Another of Mr. Russell's letters the following month had more on the same subject:

"... Your earliest Buffalo Bill dime novel, 'The Gold Bullet Sport,' is actually the first I suspect Ingraham of writing, so from that point of

view I am glad to have your confirmation. When published in the Saturday Journal, Mar. 29-May 31, 1879, the rest of it was 'or, The Knights of Chivalry.' When reprinted as DL No. 83 the subtitle became 'The Knights of the Overland.' The play Cody appeared in that season was 'The Knights of the Plains, or, Buffalo Bill's Buffalo Trail.' I suspect it was written from that play.

"The evidence for Cody writing some of them is mainly circumstantial, although his sister says he did (Wetmore, 222-3 original edition; 239-40 Grosset & Dunlap). Johannsen has a note from Ingraham, a letter Cody wrote Victor, and one or two stray bits.

"The rest is circumstantial. I don't think Cody had any connection with Ingraham before 1878-79, as Ingraham immediately started writing Buffalo Bill literature after the play. Cody had nothing to do with Ned Buntline after the season of 1872-73—Buntline only wrote one Buffalo Bill novel after that year, about 1883.

"In 1875, Cody first appeared as author with two short pieces, in Vickers's Fireside Visitor and Saturday Evening Post, and three dime novels 'The Pearl of the Prairies,' 'Dead Eye, the Unknown Scout,' 'The Prairie Rover'—the last two were ½ Dime Library #55, 68, Pocket Library #39, 52; I do not have any further history of the 'Pearl.' Now, in 1874-75 Major John M. Burke was off with Texas Jack and Mlle. Morlacchi and not with Cody. That summer Cody spent at home in Rochester, the first time in his life he had nothing to do, and he may have done some writing, for the

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first piece appeared in August, and they came thick and fast from then on. Cody was back with Texas Jack and Burke in 1875-76. March 27, 1876 in SJ appeared 'Kansas King, or, The Red Right Hand' and the play that fall was 'The Red Right Hand, or, Buffalo Bill's First Scalp for Custer,' which suggests that the dime novel was rewritten to include the summer's events. Bill says, 'My new drama was arranged for the stage by J. V. Arlington, the actor.' The dime novel, 'The Phantom Spy,' was in SJ Sept. 23-Nov. 18, 1876 (½ Dime Library #19, Pocket Library #6). Do you know anything about Arlington? 'Kansas King' is the one you mentioned as having a play connection.

"The next one was in 1878 in SJ, May 11-Aug. 3, and it was 'Lost Lulu,' and as you know he always called his wife Lulu, so I suspect he had a hand in this. And maybe she didn't like it as the title was changed to 'Death Trailer, the Chief of Scouts' as DL #52."

Here I'll quote a paragraph of my answer to this one of Russell's:

"Seems to me one of your best arguments for Cody's authorship is the SJ serial, 'Death Trailer, the Chief of Scouts.' It's unlikely, though not impossible, that anyone but himself would have thought of using her name in a novel. A close study of the style of writing in this story ought to give a clue to others that are signed by Cody. Happens I never read 'Death Trailer' myself."

To continue with Russell's letter:

"That's the schedule down to 'Gold Bullet Sport' with Burke out of the way except for one year, and neither Buntline or Ingraham at hand any of this time. Of course Bill may have had some help, but I doubt if it was very professional, considering each year's play was by a different writer."

"As for the books, I think he wrote all or most of the 1879 autobiography, some of the continuance in 'Story of the Wild West,' and he may have done something about the biographies in that book, considering his preface.

I believe 'True Tales of the Plains' was a press agent compilation, mostly by Burke, some lifted from the autobiography. And there is a letter in Mrs. Foote's pamphlet that proves Cody wrote the last autobiography for Hearst, however much it was edited. I suppose Ingraham wrote all the dime novels signed by Buffalo Bill after 1879, as they tie in with Ingraham's own Buffalo Bill novels—and the dime novel business was closely tied to show publicity as you know from the Pawnee Bill affair (W. Bert) Foster did (in 1910)."

Johannsen concurred with Russell in his opinion of Cody's writings (from "The House of Beadle and Adams, Vol. II"): "Ingraham is said to have written some of the novels credited to Buffalo Bill, after Cody himself tired of writing. One novel was written for Beadle over the name of J. B. Omohundro (Texas Jack) and Ingraham told (Gilbert) Patten he was the author of that story."

"Buffalo Bill, the Border King" was a title used so often that Don Russell once remarked it was a good "example of how (dime novel titles) were swapped around in the various issues." No doubt it began with Ned Buntline's "Buffalo Bill, the King of Border Men." At any rate, we have reached a period in Col. Ingraham's writing career when the once smooth going roughens. Street & Smith and Frank Tousey color cover novels were putting Beadle and Adams out of business. It's hardly necessary to remind collectors of Ingraham items that besides Buffalo Bill novels and others dealing with the Western scene and characters, he wrote more than 80 sea and pirate stories for Beadle's Dime alone, plenty more for Beadle's Half-Dime (his father, Rev. J. H. Ingraham did several of this type, revised by his son) and Prentiss even wrote detective stories.

According to Johannsen, "Between 1897 and 1902 the Ingrahams lived in Easton, Maryland, and from 1902 to 1904 in Chicago . . ." Ingraham had the last Dime Library, No. 1009, Buf-



falo Bill's Deadshot Dragoon, published by Beadle, Feb. 23, 1898. Two more were issued under the Ivers imprint, No. 1013, Buffalo Bill's Secret Six and No. 1029, Buffalo Bill in Arizona. There was a stretch of lean times for the colonel. He might have gone over to Street & Smith, but he had had that serious disagreement with Francis S. Smith earlier (possibly over the serial, "Custer's Last Wapath") and thus no market was open to him there (or apparently not).

This brings our friend Gilbert Patten to the fore again, to tell what happened when he learned, through a mutual friend, that "Prentiss was broke and talking about going with a gun-running ship carrying arms to the Cuban rebels . . ."

"But," says Patten, who had by then very successfully launched the Merriwell tales in Tip Top, "when I told the Colonel that I thought I could reopen a market for his stories with S. & S., Prentiss hit the nearest cloud. 'No, Pard, no, suh!' he exploded (he called Gil his 'damn-Yankee pard'). 'They gave me a dirty deal and I'll starve befo' I'll ever write another word for them.' I argued, pleaded, almost begged on bended knees. 'Your row was with the original publishers,' I said. 'They are dead. The sons of Francis S. Smith are running the business now, and I consider O. G. Smith an honorable gentleman and my personal friend. Let me mention you to him.' And finally he gave reluctant consent.

"When I spoke to Ormond Smith about the Colonel, Mr. Smith said, 'Tell him I'll be very glad if he will come to see me.' So Prentiss went, was received graciously, and thereafter wrote scores of nickel stories about 'Buffalo Bill' for that firm."

And the first of those stories, No. 1 of Street & Smith's new color cover weekly, *The Buffalo Bill Stories*, dated May 18, 1901, was entitled, "Buffalo Bill, the Border King. A Story of Daring Deeds." But until Don Russell

made his always shrewd deductions, I never was sure of the author of this tale. All I felt certain of was that W. Bert Foster had extended a yarn filling the pages of a 5-cent weekly into one of 300-page book length, selling for 15c.

Let Don Russell himself tell of his findings. (I'm quoting from two letters combined since both are on the same subject):

"One interesting thing about this No. 40 Great Western 'Border King' although the Indian chief, Oak Heart and White Antelope (girl) are fictitious (even though Sitting Bull couldn't have sued them for libel) and 'Fort Advance' and 'Fort Resistance' are imaginary, almost every officer's name used or mentioned is real. Major Frank Baldwin, Lt. Edward L. Meyer—he was dismissed from the service in 1877; the regimental history says 'he ceased to be an officer of the army' and that he was author of 'Random Rhymes by the Poet Lariat.' Capt. Alfred Taylor, who wrote a couple of Buffalo Bill dime novels is a character, as is Col. 'Royal', not far from 'Royall,' and 'Capt. Ames' is mentioned, not far from 'Armes,' with whom Cody served. 'Lt. Dick Danforth,' who figures in the plot, is the only officer I can't find in the Army Register . . . I have delayed answering until I could finish 'Buffalo Bill, the Border King' and form some conclusion about it. I am now pretty well convinced that it is Col. Prentiss Ingraham in person. The use of real names was the first hint, but there are several other characteristics. The other writers usually make Bill invincible, the deus ex machina of the plot. It is Ingraham who has the villain get the drop on him once in awhile. Of course he always escapes in some marvelous way—in one case here giving his pledge to return to the Indians." (In J. F. Cooper's "The Deerslayer," Natty Bumppo, the leatherstocking hero, gives his word to his Indian captors to return to captivity and the torture stake; he is rescued by soldiers from the fort.) "Also In-



graham had an obsession for Bill's crying his dead, which he even extended to the Indians, as in this case. And it is loosely strung together, with a sort of bit-off conclusion like he was running close to his word limit. The 'Mad Hunter' I also believe to be one of his favorite characters . . .

That this comes down to is that in 1897 Ingraham published his last Buffalo Bill story (for Beadle and Adams), and my guess would be that he might have had one on hand. Now, Buffalo Bill's Wild West certainly had a close concern with Ingraham and an interest in seeing that his stories went on. My guess is that they engineered the deal by which Ingraham was to be employed and the weekly Buffalo Bill Stories started in 1901 (in "Lives and Legends," Russell gives Patten credit for persuading the Colonel to visit Ormond G. Smith). It may well have started with one of his stories hitherto unpublished (Buffalo Bill, the Border King), which might have gone 3 issues in its present form. Then S. & S. went into reprinting their own stories until Ingraham could get a few ahead. This theory also accounts for the fact that by the time S. & S. got to the Border Stories (15c book format library) someone had the impression that the weekly was an Ingraham project and hung his name on all of them."

In another letter Don Russell said, "Actually 'Border King' could be 3 stories, ending at pp. 98 and 174." I had pointed out to him that there were breaks in the continuity (and he agreed it was so), indicating either 3 stories strung together or something added to the original 5-center. Having read so many stories by Foster, I thought I could see the hand of Foster doing the extension. If it had been a longer story originally, unless much condensed, it would have spilled over into Buffalo Bill Stories No. 2 and possibly No. 3. But No. 2 was Buffalo Bill's Best Shot and No. 3 was Buffalo Bill's Victory, condensations of two Buffalo Bills by Ned Buntline. Buffalo Bill, the Border King had not

appeared serially in New York Weekly (as had the 2 Buntline novels); there was one entitled Buffalo Bill, the Border King, or, The White Queen of the Sioux and the Girl Rifle-shot, by "E. W. Wheeler" (Robert Russell) in Log Cabin Library No. 152; but this wasn't anything like the Ingraham story, was never reprinted in the Buffalo Bill Stories but as No. 5 of Far West Library, with the title changed to Buffalo Bill's Comrades, or, The Queen of the Sioux.

Don Russell was quite right in guessing that S. & S. used up their own Buffalo Bill material from New York Weekly and Log Cabin while Prentiss Ingraham was getting started. They also reprinted Buffalo Bills he'd written for B. & A.'s Dime and Half-Dime Libraries. Although Ivers took over the Beadle line when Beadle & Adams failed in 1899, Ingraham probably had some rights in his own stories for, as I mentioned earlier, after his death in 1904, copyright on his Buffalo Bills was renewed by Street & Smith (in Far West Library, etc.) in the name of Rosa L. Ingraham.

Prentiss was busy writing again and no doubt happy about it. Not only did he do nickel Buffalo Bills for S. & S.'s new weekly, and some for their Jesse James Stories, but he also wrote serials for their story paper, "Good News," under the pseudonym "Lt. Lionel Lounsberry." His stories about Kit Carey were favorites of mine: Cadet Kit Carey, or, The Young Soldier's Legacy, Kit Carey's Protege, or, The West Point Conspiracy, Lieutenant Carey's Luck, Captain Carey of the Gallant 7th, or, Fighting the Indians at Pine Ridge (in this one Sitting Bull is shot by Indian Police). In these tales, besides young Carey, a border boy who rose to be a captain of cavalry on the Western frontier, also appeared Buffalo Bill, Dr. Frank Powell, Capt. Jack Crawford and numerous real army officers. All were fast and furious U. S. cavalry-and-Indian stories, too, in Ingraham's best style, except where the action took place at West Point. Captain Chester



G. Mayo, in his very fine Bibliographic Listing of Good News, lists them under Ingraham's name in his book, with pseudonym "Lt. Lionel Lounsberry." The stories were reprinted in Medal Library, then issued in hardcover edition by David McKay, with illustrations from Good News.

The Lounsberry pseud. evidently was used not alone for Ingraham. Sea stories being one of his specialties, you'd think he would be the author of such Good News serials as Cruise of the Silver Spray, Friends or Foes, or, The Young Blockade Runner of Charleston, Midshipman Merrill, or, From Forecastle to Quarterdeck, Ensign Merrill, or, The Rovers of the Yellow Sea, but behind the Lounsberry byline on these tales was Henry Harrison Lewis, who sometimes used the pseud. Enrique H. Lewis.

On August 16, 1904, at the Beauvoir Confederate Home (in Tennessee, I think) Colonel Ingraham passed away, leaving a wife and three children. He had always believed that the wound in his foot, never properly healing, would result in his death, but it was Bright's disease which caused it. As long as there remains a single dime novel collector, or a Buffalo Bill novel with either the Beadle & Adams or Street & Smith imprint on it, the name of Col. Prentiss Ingraham, who knew from personal experience what it was to be a bold adventurer and could put it down in writing for others to enjoy vicariously, will be remembered. As Don Russell said, "Ingraham could use some wild situations, but somehow he gave an air of reality to them. When all is said and done, Prentiss could knock out a good story when he put his mind to it."

The End

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### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### Expenses:

Publishing cost incl. postage	\$636.50
Advertising	102.38
Photography & stationery	29.25
Total Expenses	\$768.13

#### Income

Subscriptions	507.50
Advertising	175.00
Contributions	22.00
Sales, Back issues	6.65
	\$716.10
Net Loss	\$52.03

### FOR SALE

New York Detective Library #154 157  
162 \$3 each; Old King Brady  
Jesse James Stories (S&S) #32 97  
\$3.00 each.

James Boys Weekly #10 12 \$3.50 ea.

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**NEWSY NEWS**

Joseph J. Myler has many Beadles Half Dimes for sale.

Fred Lee is offering \$4.00 each for certain numbers of Secret Service and Liberty Boys of '76 in good condition. Write him at 1113 Pleasant St., Indianapolis 3, Ind.

Just received the sad news that Russell Bullock died on November 8, 1963.

Mr. Ward G. Loucks of 150 East 8th

St., Oswego, N. Y. wants good condition copies of Liberty Boys, Blue and Gray, Paul Jones, Young Glory, Yankee Doodle, Buffalo Bill Stories below 200, James Boys, Jesse James Stories, All Sports, Frank Manley, Young Athlete, Young Klondike, Klondike Kit and Red White and Blue.

Mrs. Hector A. Duchesne has notified the editor that her husband died on January 25, 1964.

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No. 58

THE FORD BOYS, by D. W. Stevens—Boys of N. Y. Pocket Lib. 87, July 22, 1882. This is one of the rarest of dime novels, only a few copies in existence. It was published immediately after the killing of Jesse James. Dime Novel issue No. 58. Price \$2.00.

No. 59

THE JAMES BOYS and the FORTY NINERS, by D. W. Stevens. Written by Francis Doughty, author of the Brady stories. N. Y. Detective Library 750. One of the finest James Boys novels written, when Frank James and others of the gang were still alive. Dime Novel Club issue No. 59. Price \$2.00.

No. 60

WILD BILL HICKOK, the Pistol Dead Shot. By Col. Prentiss Ingraham. A very rare Wild Bill dime novel, pub. January 11, 1882, in Beadle Dime Library No. 168. Dime Novel Club issue No. 60. Price \$2.00.

No. 61

THE FATE OF DOCTOR QUARTZ, or The Murder in the Dissecting Room. Nick Carter against his greatest foe. One of the earliest Nick Carter novels. 1891. Nick Carter Library 15. Dime Novel Club issue No. 61. Price \$2.00.

No. 62

SENTENCED FOR LIFE: or Old King Brady and the Great Pearl Street Poisoning Case. By A N. Y. Detective (F. W. Doughty). One of the earliest and finest Brady dime novels. N. Y. Detective Library 417, pub. Nov. 22, 1890. Dime Novel Club issue No. 62. Price \$2.00.



## EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Mr. Leithead: We are indebted to you for information on the Old Broadbrim and Young Broadbrim Series of dime novels contained in recent issues of the Dime Novel Round-up. We now have two of these: Old Cap Collier Library #253 and Young Broadbrim Weekly #67. We are making an effort to get any of these that come on the market.—Mrs. Marjorie F. Davis, Haverford College Library.

Dear Ed: I do not know who was the writer of the item on "Mr. Frank Merriwell" on page 7 of the January Round-up. He was right in stating that this was a disappointing story. In my estimation it was one of the poorest stories that Patten wrote. He may have introduced sex into the story at the request of the publishers. One statement is made, "The old gang is brought into the story." That was one trouble, there was none of the old gang brought into the story except his wife. Another fault in this story as well as in the radio serial and also the serial in the paper, that the Merri was forgotten and in my estimation the fun in the Tip Tops was at least 50 per cent in putting them across. Some time I may write an article on the Tip Tops from No. 1 to where Dick comes in, which were always my favorites.—H. O. Jacobsen, So. Milwaukee, Wis. (Ed. Note. You are right, the old gang did not make an appearance in "Mr. Frank Merriwell." I look forward to receiving an article from you on the early Tip Tops).

Dear Ed: I am trying to get cover illustrations for these novels: Beadles Boys Library No. 96, Roving Rifle, Custer's Little Scout, by T. C. Harbaugh, and Beadles Dime Library No. 750, Buffalo Bill's Big Four; or, Custer's Shadow. If you know any collector who has these novels and might be willing to let me have a photo, I would appreciate your letting me know.—Kent L. Steckmesser, Department of History, Los Angeles State College, Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Ed: Some sad news to report

to all the members of the Round-up. Another of our old time members, Aubrey Edgerton has passed away. Lady who took care of him called me this A.M. that Aubrey died October 9, 1963, after an illness of near 5 years. The past year he has been in bed not able to get up, and the last three weeks of his life he was completely paralyzed, he could not even swallow. He sure suffered. I was up North at the time so did not know about it and since I got home latter part of October had no chance to get over to see him. Had been thinking of running over this week but too late now.—Lou Kohrt, Houston, Texas.

My dear Old Friend Eddie: For a most a year, I've been a sick palooka in and out of hospitals, but this last time due to as you know the death of my dear wife Claire. When that happened last April I sure went to pieces, sitting all alone day after day in that now lonely house, only a few times some one came in to see me. Then like a jack I started drinking trying to forget, didn't eat right, result I went all to pieces. Bit by bit now I'm gradually overcoming my distress but fate still abounds. I have to live out my life in this state hospital due to there not being enough room at my son's home, he with six kids, no wonder. He visits me on Sundays which is a visiting day here. Last Sunday he took me home for a day and frankly at the end of the day I was satisfied to get back, as here, although most of them (old men like myself) are mostly composed of irritable ones in poor mental condition.

However, now that I'm resigned to my fate I do manage with my honor card to go for walks. This is mostly to our Commissary where one can sit at tables and buy most anything in the way of drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) and eats. There I can mingle with both sexes and enjoy myself which I could not do living at my son's home. I still get a letter from Ralph Cummings now and then, and used to from good old Bill Burns. Too bad he had to pass on as all will do



Some day. Ken Daggett, also writes. I wish you would too now that I am again in the writing mood, daily. I so look for mail, always gives me a lift.

Yes, Eddie, since Claire passed on my entire life has changed and I'm living in a different world.

Well Eddie I guess this does it for now. I still revel in my memories of the nice times I had with so many of the brotherhood, the articles I used to write—in fact I have two in my suitcase, Broncho Charlie Tangles with Great Inventor, also my story with

photos on cover of the various members. You, from this description can gather that I've had a sure enough hectic time of it with no end in sight—no happy ending anyway. —Charlie Duprez, Bldg. 95A-1 South, State Hospital, Central Islip, L. I., N. Y.

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